

Serial No.: 09/378,196

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7442US01

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Roy, U.S. Patent No, 6,081,513 ("Roy") in view of Riddle, U.S. Patent No. 6,175,856 ("Riddle"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Roy or Riddle, either singly or in combination. As discussed in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to a bandwidth adjustment server or bandwidth allocation server (BWAS) which monitors system bandwidth usage and directs each of the user terminals to adjust their coding algorithms based on system bandwidth usage. If system bandwidth usage is high, the BWAS requires the user terminals to employ a less bandwidth-intense coding algorithm; similarly, when system bandwidth usage is low, the BWAS will allow the user terminals to employ higher bandwidth-use coding algorithms. Thus, in response to signals from the BWAS, the client terminals adjust their coding algorithms. The direction can be on a network-wide level and not necessarily restricted to entities currently in a conference another entity wishes to join. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein said bandwidth allocation server is adapted to transmit one or more renegotiation signals to one or more telephony devices involved in a communication a telephony device seeks to join and one or more telephony devices involved in another communication;" claim 5 has been amended to recite "monitoring network usage at a bandwidth allocation server, said monitoring including monitoring a plurality of conference calls; and changing codec speed for said plurality of conference calls based on said monitoring network usage, responsive to signals from said bandwidth allocation server."

In contrast, Roy provides a bridge resource manager (BRM) that is used to establish coding based on QoS considerations when a conference is begun. Roy,

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however, does not appear to provide a server that causes a change in codec speed or re-negotiating codecs either as the conference is ongoing or for other entities not involved in the conference once initial codec choices have been made. Thus, the bridge "execute[s] the stated algorithm, assess[es] what type and quantity of resources are needed. . .and reserve[s] the necessary resources to maintain the desired levels of quality of service for the multimedia conference call." (Col. 5, lines 43-49). Once a request has been made, Roy provides for execution of a "multimedia performance and resource analysis algorithm" that determines whether "there is sufficient network and bridge resources to (1) provide a call that satisfies all requirements of the conference call, (2) provide a call in which some requirements can be partially met while others are fully met, qualifying the conference call to operate in a 'degraded mode, or (3) provide an indication that the call has been rejected due to the unavailability of critical resources." (Col. 7, lines 55-65). This all occurs "*before acceptance of the conference call.*" Col. 9, lines 2-3).

While Roy refers to "pre-empting resources devoted to lower priority services," these relate, for example, to buffer availability, etc., and do not appear to relate to changing codec speed, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Instead, Roy discusses "priority 1" services, such as 'guaranteed service' and Priority 2, a 'best effort' service. When a request for a conference call is made, Roy determines whether there are Priority 2 services that can be "pre-empted," i.e., whether certain capacity of the best effort service can be used without degrading the existing service or the requested call. If not, then the call cannot be made. If the call can be made, the requesting entity will ask for re-negotiation of the call setup *for the new call* based on the new "degraded" priority 2 level. *Neither the codec nor the priority levels for an existing call appear to be renegotiated.*

While Riddle is relied on for allegedly teaching codec renegotiation, Riddle appears to merely provide a way for parties starting or joining a *specific* conference to negotiate codec choices for that *specific* conference. Thus, "the exchange of the list. . .

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occurs . . . during the initiation of the teleconference or upon a new processor joining the teleconference." (Col. 9, lines 5-6). Riddle does not, however, appear to have anything to do with a bandwidth allocation server responsible on a network-wide level for directing client terminals, such as those involved in other calls or conferences, to renegotiate codec choices, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Indeed, if anything, Riddle appears representative of a problem solved by the present invention, which prevents individual parties to particular conferences from hogging network bandwidth. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Riddle in view of Roy. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Riddle or Roy, either singly or in combination.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "means for changing a communication over said connection from said first coding algorithm to a second coding algorithm, said changing means responsive to one or more signals from a bandwidth allocation server that monitors network conditions, *said bandwidth allocation server adapted to transmit said signals to all active multimedia entities.*"

As discussed above, both Roy and Riddle relate merely to start up or entry into a given teleconference. Neither appears to have anything to do with transmitting renegotiation signals to other network entities, such as those involved in other calls. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 15 and 19 of co-pending Application No. 09/236,671. Applicants will consider filing a terminal disclaimer when allowable subject matter is indicated.

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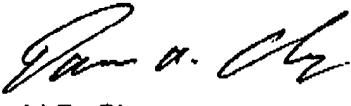
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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

SIEMENS CORPORATION

By:


David D. Chung
Registration No.: 38,409
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Tel.: 650-694-5339
Fax: 650-968-4517

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830
ATTENTION: Elsa Keller, Legal Department
Telephone: (732) 321-3026